

## The Sun.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1893.

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 THE SUN, New York City.

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## Silver Repeal—A Perfectly Plain Duty.

In the Senate to-day Senator HILL will call up the Silver repeal bill and endeavor to have it considered. Next Thursday is the day set for the consideration of a similar measure by the House of Representatives.

It is reported on good authority that Mr. CLEVELAND now regards the repeal of the legislation requiring the coinage of four and a half million ounces of silver monthly as the most important and most urgent duty before Congress at the present time.

Mr. HILL and Mr. CLEVELAND are right. The coinage provision of the SHERMAN Act should be repealed at once. Every Democrat in the Senate or in the House holds a commission from his party and from the people to do everything in his power to bring about such a repeal.

The national Democratic platform of 1892 contains this plank:

"We denounce the Republican legislation known as the SHERMAN Act of 1890 as a cowardly makeshift, designed to postpone the question of silver until the next election, and which would make all its supporters, as well as its author, anxious for its speedy repeal."

There is nothing obscure, nothing ambiguous, nothing unintelligible about this denunciation, accepted by the party at Chicago and approved by the nation's vote in November. The necessity of a speedy repeal of the coinage provision of the SHERMAN Act, without regard to what further legislation there may be, is a plain duty, expressed in language which leaves no room for misunderstanding.

If the party is to redeem the pledges of the platform on which Mr. CLEVELAND was elected, the SHERMAN Act must be repealed. That can be done now. If Democrats in the Fifty-second Congress recognize their obligations and perform their duty. We suppose that Mr. CLEVELAND puts this duty first of all in his comparative estimate of urgency, for the very good reason that until the Fifty-third Congress meets there is no possibility of repealing the SHERMAN Act and withdrawing protection as an object or incident of legislation.

The silver repeal accomplished, the way will be clear for the other great enterprise to which the party has pledged itself. Let no Democrat in the Fifty-second Congress dare to stand in the way!

## Consult the Popular Will.

We are glad to hear from Albany that the bill to refer the scheme of a Greater New York to a vote of the communities concerned is beginning to receive the attention which its importance as a measure of Democratic home rule so well deserves.

Whether the proposed consolidation is desirable or undesirable, practicable or impracticable, the political soundness of this bill is beyond question. It is a distinctive and thoroughly Democratic measure, and a Democratic Legislature which should act it aside would be recreant to the fundamental principles of Democracy.

If it threw on the Legislature the responsibility of rendering the decision on the merits of the scheme, its rejection would be demanded by Democratic principle; but the project does not come up at Albany on its merits. The matter does not commit any legislator in any way except so far as it enables him to express by his vote on its loyalty to Democratic principle.

If, then, there is any opposition to the bill, it cannot be considered by any Democrat, and, least of all, from any Democrat representing in the Legislature any part of the great metropolitan district whose will as to the proposed consolidation should rightfully determine whether the scheme shall be carried into effect.

Is there any Democrat in the Legislature who is afraid of the popular will? If there is such a one he ought to be drummed out of the party at once. He is a traitor to its principles.

## A Word for Russia.

In the current number of the *Century Magazine* there is an interesting article by Mr. FRANK BORTKIN, Secretary of the Russian Legation in Washington. It is of the nature of an appeal for an arrest of judgment in the matter of the attempt made by some American writers to arouse inimical feelings toward his countrymen and his Government. We can assure Mr. BORTKIN that we do not appeal from a representative of Russia to the American people ever turn a deaf ear, and that the ties of gratitude and friendship which bind us to the great northern empire have never been more firmly riveted than at the present hour.

It is not for nations more than for individuals to look at things from the mouth. It is not the part of magnanimity to accept benefits and then to seek to evade the debt of gratitude by trying too curiously into the donor's motives. In vain have certain historians attempted to shake the deep and ardent affection which Americans bear to France by assuring us that it was simply hostility to Louis XVI. that prompted the Ministers of Louis XVI. to embrace the cause of the thirteen colonies in our Revolutionary war. The fact can never efface that other fact that for years France paid, armed, and clothed the Continental forces; that French and American soldiers fought together in the trenches at Yorktown; and that BONAAPARTE stood by the side of WASHINGTON when CORNWALLIS gave up his sword. Those are things that a nation can never forget, so long as it is worthy to remain a nation.

That we are under like tremendous obligations to the house of ROMANOFF is recognized by every American who knows the history of his country. Whatever may have been the motive which led CATHERINE II. to join the so-called League of Neutrals, the result of the act was to complete the discouragement of the British Ministers, to break the stubborn will of GEORGE III., and to compel the acknowledgment of American independence. Whatsoever, again, may have been the purpose controlling the mind of ALEXANDER I. when, braving the anger of Napoleon, he refused to enforce the Berlin decrees against the American vessels thronging the Baltic ports, there is no doubt that he rescued from ruin our commerce. We accepted redemption at his hands; we profited by his protection; and it behooves us to remember it.

The services of the house of ROMANOFF to the American republic culminated in the

stand taken on our behalf by ALEXANDER II. at a crisis when our national existence was at stake, the French Emperor having put forth all his influence at Westminster to persuade the British Government to join him in intervening on the side of the Southern Confederacy. Then it was that the Emperor, for the Russian Empire, caused his ambassadors at Paris and London to announce that, if France and England undertook to assure the destruction of the American Union and to perpetuate the régime of slavery in the Western hemisphere, they would find Russia arrayed against them. Nor was the friendly interposition of ALEXANDER II. confined to words. Simultaneously with the utterance of diplomatic warnings, a Russian fleet was directed to proceed under sealed orders to the harbor of New York, and a Russian squadron was despatched to the bay of San Francisco. For the American people, for the consolidation of our Union, the Emperor made known his willingness to fight; and there is not the shadow of a doubt that his willingness averted a catastrophe.

Is it likely that Americans will ever forget services like these? Not so long as our children remember with gratitude their fathers' friends; not so long as the blood of the men of the Revolution, of the war of 1812, and of the war for the Union courses through our veins and electrifies our hearts.

## Public Money for Private Collections.

The fact that the Trustees of the Natural History Society have practically forced upon the city an improper plan for adding to the city museum buildings is a good deal in the way of thinking over besides fault in architecture. It is a plan which has been projected, in a way which has probably escaped attention. The effect of disturbing the affairs of the Park Department to the extent of overriding the judgment of the Landscape Architect, and of putting the seal of justification and disgrace upon a municipal structure already in existence, will be better appreciated when the interests of certain other enterprises similar to that of the Natural History Society are taken into consideration.

The system by which the city furnishes money and gives lands and buildings for the purpose of providing better accommodations for private collections and their freer enjoyment by the public is not applied to the Natural History Museum alone.

In the same way as New York dedicated the land of Manhattan square and put buildings thereon to the value of nearly a million and a half of dollars, it also built for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on the eastern side of the Central Park. The city owns and controls these buildings. Being located in the public parks, they have hitherto been planned and constructed and maintained with proper reference to intelligent regard to their surroundings. There is a bill at present in the Legislature to establish the same sort of public and private partnership for a Botanic Garden, to be run by a private society, provided with land and assisted with money by the city. A similar project has been contemplated for a zoological garden of an importance suitable to the metropolis. The new aquarium, now building at the Battery, which it is expected will be an interesting and popular ornament of the town, would probably be placed eventually under a like supervision. Other institutions like these would follow in the natural order of the city's maturing and scientific growth. This relation between the municipal Government and private citizens has its difficulties, but with men of disinterested wisdom and sober public spirit it is surmountable.

It would be impossible, however, to think of maintaining this system, hitherto so advantageous and satisfactory to all concerned, if the labor, the expenditure, the authorities, and the authority of the city are to be subjected to the abuse practised in the case of the proposed addition to the Natural History Museum. No city Government could long tolerate such control and treatment of its affairs and retain its standing before the community.

We say it with all seriousness that the responsible officers of the Natural History Society should retrace their steps and then proceed by the path set by both law and common sense. The Landscape Architect's protest against the architectural monstrosity threatened in Manhattan square should be respected. There should be other plans for the new building.

The Disadvantages of Bigness.

The fat boy in the museum remarked one day that proportions such as his had their great disadvantages. This statement of a profound truth, based upon personal experience, seems to apply very well to the State of Texas. The disadvantages of bigness. This fact will impress upon one who reads the important report recently prepared by Gen. ADOLPHUS W. GREELY, Chief Signal Officer, on "The Climatic Conditions of Texas."

The geographical, as a rule, do not help one to acquire correct notions of the size of Texas. The State is so large that few atlas sheets show it on the same scale as other States, except on general maps of the country. Studying Alabama on one map sheet and Texas on another, the attention of the student is seldom called to the fact that Texas is shown on a much smaller scale than Alabama; and very likely he leaves school with quite erroneous notions of the size of Texas as compared with Alabama and other States. Gen. GREELY gives some striking facts which convey a more adequate idea of the enormous area of Texas than many people entertain.

Although Texas belongs to the drainage basin of the Atlantic, its extreme western part in El Paso county is about 200 miles nearer to Pacific waters than to the Gulf of Mexico. A part of the Pan Handle is nearer to the Great Salt Lake of Utah than to the Gulf of Mexico. Fourteen of the 228 counties are larger than the State of Delaware. The distance from El Paso to the eastern boundary of the State is as great as that from New York City to Chicago. The northern corner of the Pan Handle is as far from the southern boundary at Brownsville as Chicago is from Mobile. While the extreme northern part of Texas is in about the same latitude as Norfolk, the most southern part of the State is scarcely one hundred miles north of Key West.

Texas is one of our great seaboard States, only California and Florida exceeding it in length of seacoast; and yet there are large regions in the State that are further from the sea than many of our political divisions in the interior, such as Idaho, Nevada, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio.

It must make the intelligent citizen of the great State pause when he is asked, "How about the climate of Texas?" Texas enjoys a variety of climates. It takes some time adequately to measure the comprehensive question. The State extends across eleven degrees of latitude. While snow and ice are practically unknown in its southern portion, there are large areas across which the severe "norther" sweeps, and where a temperature far below the freezing point is not uncommon. Gen. GREELY sums up the climatic diversities of Texas in a striking manner when he says, "The apple and olive, cotton and hay find congenial habitat" there.

With regard to the rainfall, some portions of the State have less than an inch a month, and are a part of the arid region, while other sections have more than an inch a week. Immigration is becoming more and more difficult to attract into regions whose climatic conditions are not definitely known. We may readily see what an injustice may be done to a State like Texas by erroneous ideas as to its climatic conditions; and such reports as this of the Chief Signal Officer of the army upon the climatic conditions of Texas and their bearing upon agricultural pursuits, are calculated to be of the highest service to the great State, whose extent and resources are still imperfectly understood.

## Burn the Stuff.

The ice in the harbor during the cold weather last month was a serious check to the Street Cleaning Department, as it prevented entirely or greatly interfered with the work of transporting the garbage from the dumps. Scows could not get through or could not be had in sufficient numbers. If the city had an adequate plant and arrangements for burning the garbage, such a delay and difficulty in getting rid of the garbage would not be possible. For the public health as well as for the public convenience, the garbage ought to be burned. It is the safest way and the best way of disposing of it (see *Editorial*). Portions of the stuff gathered by the Street Cleaning Department can be sold. The city of Boston is already deriving a considerable sum from that source.

Cremate the garbage, and thereby save money, promote the health of the city, and sweeten the harbor all at once. The residuum of the crematory is easy to handle.

A High Old Libel Law.

Mr. WALTER H. BAHAN represents the Ninth Assembly district of this town in the Legislature of 1893. Mr. BAHAN wants to amend the criminal law of libel. To that end he has introduced in the Assembly a bill to add to the Penal Code a new section in these words:

"Section 245. Any person or persons, firm, company, society, corporation or organization who shall publish, print, report, utter, or in any manner make public, or cause, aid, abet, or assist in publishing, printing, reporting, or uttering the name or names of any person or persons, partnership, firm, society, club, corporation, or organization, who for non-payment of debt are commonly called delinquent debtors, or a delinquent debtor, the guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$500 or imprisonment in a reformatory or county jail for the term of one year or both. This section shall not affect the publication in any daily newspaper of any proceedings in courts of justice referred to in the Penal Code."

The author of this bill ought to have offered a reward to any one who could tell what it means, or could discover a scintilla of sense in it.

In terms, it declares any one to be a criminal who utters the name of a delinquent debtor. The utterance, for all that appears, may be by word of mouth merely, although up to the present time oral defamation has not been a crime in this State. We can hardly believe it possible, however, that any person of ordinary intelligence can seriously propose to make such changes in the law; and we are forced to the conclusion that the bill of Mr. BAHAN has some hidden meaning which we cannot divine.

Judging from the motives of the bill, produced at Albany since the present session began, a protective enactment will soon be needed making it a crime to expose the asinine character of proposed legislation.

## Canada's Interest in Hawaii.

From our esteemed Tory contemporary, the *Ottawa Citizen*, comes a cry of alarm which seems to awaken no response in Downing street:

"Canada's interest lies in the fact that the islands are situated on the direct route from Canada to Australia and on the direct route between this country and China. They are an important station in the cable system, and it is desirable, from our point of view, that they are not independent, England at all events should suppress any independence there, so that Hawaii may serve as a base from which she can exercise surveillance of the Pacific Ocean and also as headquarters for her fleet."

It is to be hoped that effective measures will be taken to prevent the United States from annexing territories which in future are likely to be of so much importance to us.

Canada's interest lies in becoming a part of the United States. The prosperous development of her commercial and industrial future depends upon political union with the United States, and by the inevitable propulsion of self-interest she is being drawn to the United States. It would be an obstacle to her commerce in the Pacific in the future to have the Hawaiian Islands under other than American control.

The incorporation of Hawaii with the United States will do Canada no harm at present, and will be of great benefit to the Canadian States of the United States in the glorious future. Our friend in Ottawa is repining at an annexation which annexed Canada will highly approve.

If the Anti-Option bill comes up in the House to-day, will the Democrats remember that they are pledged to taxation for revenue and not to taxation for prohibition with incidental protection to farmers?

Will the Sun kindly inform one of its subscribers if any recent news relative to the annexation of Hawaii has been received?

There is no news. That is to say there is no news which, in the best interests of School Reform, it is expedient to communicate to the public at the present time. Col. AME BURNETT informs us that the annexation of Hawaii is a matter of course. He also knows when to be silent. Let the annexation of Hawaii and fame trust in Col. AME's judgment, and be content to hope and wait.

Recent advances from Mexico are unusually favorable to the Government. Under very auspicious circumstances, President Diaz has entered upon another term of office. The public is strong and waxing in strength; it is in a state of almost perfect tranquillity; its financial condition is unusually satisfactory; and it is on good terms with all the powers of the world. In these times, moreover, Mexico is enjoying a measure of prosperity that has not always fallen to its lot. Within the past few years the volume of its commerce has grown in magnitude; more than a thousand miles of railroad have been constructed; many new manufacturing industries have been established; extensive improvements have been made in the least of its eastern seaports; new deposits of the precious metals have been discovered; great tracts of land adapted to the growth of coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, and cotton have been opened up by the railroads; and hundreds of millions of dollars of European and American capital have been invested in the development of the country's varied resources. Many enterprising Americans are now engaged in promoting the practical interests of Mexico. At the same time both the Federal Government and the State Governments have adopted extraordinary measures for the extension of public education, and the amount of money appropriated to the service of the public schools within the past four years has been vastly greater than that expended upon them during any other period in Mexican history.

For some time past the President, DON PORFIRIO DIAZ, has just entered the third

term in regular succession; but, previous to the first of these three successive terms, which began in 1876, he had a term from 1876 to 1880, and was succeeded by Gen. MANUEL GONZALEZ, who held office until he in turn was succeeded by Diaz, who has been President for a longer period of time than any of his predecessors since the establishment of the Mexican republic in 1824.

An esteemed correspondent calls our attention to this plank in the Democratic platform upon which ANDREW JACKSON was elected in 1832:

"Adequate protection to American industry is indispensable to the prosperity of the country, and an abandonment of the tariff to the control of foreign interests is ruinous to the best interests of the nation."

Well, what of it? That is not the platform upon which GROVER CLEVELAND was elected in 1892. The present year is 1893, not 1892. The essential principles of Democracy are the same as they were sixty years ago. The tariff which has been the basis of our prosperity, the new policy he prosecuted honestly and courageously, and the results he examined with candor and perfect fairness.

That is the American and the Democratic way of doing things.

The death of Mrs. WILLIAM C. WHITNEY, which it was our sad office to announce yesterday morning, is a bereavement which touches, besides her husband and her family, a wide circle of sorrowing friends. Mrs. WHITNEY had great intellectual and social gifts, a generous impulse, and a sincere desire to promote the happiness of all around her. Her life was cast. Her own and her husband's means enabled her to dispense a liberal hospitality, and she did it with a skill and taste which made her a center of social attraction wherever she resided. When Mr. Whitney died, she was left to her own resources, but she did not confine herself to "pot-boilers" in her studio. She is capable of very excellent things.

Mr. George H. McLeod, in his "Head of Barreling Out," shows a pier bridge running into the water, having a very attractive picture and done it cleverly. Samuel Coleman's "Courtship at Morelia," No. 297, is a simple sketch in a fine tone and of transparent shadows. Mr. Moore's "September Morning," No. 283, Mr. Frazer's "A Sunny Road," Mr. Hamilton Gibson's view of a defunct landscape, Mr. Horatio Walker's "A Quiet Day in a Fine Garden," Mr. No. 385, with its Dutch girls, and the drawings by Mr. Kruseman Van Elton, Mr. Drake and Mr. Harry Penn are all serious and worthy works.

The marines are not very numerous, but two or three of them are charming in the sense of "Shore and Water," No. 394; Mr. Carlton Chapman's "Quiet Day in a Fine Garden," No. 391, and Mr. W. S. Robinson's two pictures, "Rival of Boats—Coast of Holland," No. 392, and "Dutch Fishing Folk," No. 393.

The most curious of the figure pictures is "The Great Mystery," No. 303, in which an old woman is shown in a beautiful red hair and nothing else to speak of, sitting on her throne before a stained-glass window, a great crystal sphere at her feet, and half a dozen charming, well-drawn, undraped young women approaching with offerings of jewels and flowers to her feet. Mr. George Winton Edwards has several pictures in which attractive Dutch girls do duty as models, and Mr. Childs Hansen is seen in three pictures, each characteristic of him in different ways. "Visiting," No. 380, shows a coach and footman before a brown-stone Fifth Avenue mansion in a picture in carmine and indigo, but, according to the artist, it is a picture of New York sunshine is pretty well expressed.

In "Indian Summer—Madison Square," No. 357, again Mr. Haseman has contrived very cleverly to give the autumn haze, and to beautify it with all the brightness of sunlight autumn. Mr. Haseman's brush work is a masterpiece. "The Rain," No. 308, is a view from a Chicago hotel looking out over the lake front, where the Illinois Central Railroad moves and has its being. A pair of feet in a window seat identify the town.

Mr. Carlo has two or three of his strongly characterized figures, well drawn, and Miss Clara McHenry in "The Mother," No. 335, has a serious work of much strength and sincerity of purpose, which is marked by a somewhat confused and muddy handling.

It is only necessary further to name a few of the drawings that might perhaps justly enough claim more space. There are several pictures which are really of a high order of merit. Mr. Frank Fowler has a very good drawing of two children, a boy and a girl, in a room. Mr. F. H. Freeman has a very good drawing of two children, a boy and a girl, in a room. Mr. F. H. Freeman has a very good drawing of two children, a boy and a girl, in a room.

## THE HAWAIIAN REVOLUTIONISTS.

People That Have Come In Under the American Flag Have Never Regretted It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: What reason exists for any patriotic American newspaper to publish the following article? The Hawaiian Islands are getting rid of the monarch, and Hawaii has long been an injury to the prosperity of the people of the Pacific. English jealousy of American influence may account for the supercilious tone of a few journals of the country. But English prejudices against America are not shared by the Hawaiian people. The matter is one that mainly concerns the Hawaiian people. No doubt it will be for their interest to do away forever with the old native monarchy and seek alliance with the United States. The Home Rule Administration of Mr. Gladstone is obliged by English owners of the islands to be non-interfering. It is a logical obligation of non-interference. It is a logical obligation of non-interference. It is a logical obligation of non-interference.

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## THE WATER COLOR EXHIBITION.

SECOND NOTICE.

A more particular survey of the pictures at the Water Color Society's exhibition fails to reveal any striking originality. It does confirm the earlier impressions, however, of the attractive quality of color in the exhibition. Viewed as a mural decoration, and of the fairly high average of excellence in the drawings shown, it may be proper to say that those by Mr. Henry Farrer are most numerous, but they are all alike in character, and not a very interesting character at that. They have a softness about them and a smoothness of finish that seem to find admirers, however, and that amiable Mercury, Mr. Galt, has been stowed upon several of them. Those covered with his bearing the legend "No. 184," "Lowlands," is equally distinguished. If one would choose to contemplate something better worth while, he had better turn to Mr. Shurtliff's "Autumn Forest," No. 228, or the several beautiful little framed bits of color and atmosphere out of doors to be found in Mr. J. Francis Murphy's "The Pool," No. 201; "September," No. 315, or "Silence," No. 41. Mr. Th. Robinson has two or three clever drawings, but in "A Morning in the Forest," No. 310, his later-day manner is somewhat strikingly shown in a row of cottages in blue and pink and drawn with a painted hand. Mr. Bolton Jones has a very attractive little picture of a winter scene that appears to be a photograph, and this might be said, and Mr. Palmer's "The Drink of the Fall," No. 302, which, however, is redeemed by the beauty of the view of a glistering stream in which the soft yellow moon is reflected, while it lights and whitens the snow-covered banks of the fall and winter trees. When Mr. Palmer does not confine himself to "pot-boilers" in his studio he is capable of very excellent things.

Mr. George H. McLeod, in his "Head of Barreling Out," shows a pier bridge running into the water, having a very attractive picture and done it cleverly. Samuel Coleman's "Courtship at Morelia," No. 297, is a simple sketch in a fine tone and of transparent shadows. Mr. Moore's "September Morning," No. 283, Mr. Frazer's "A Sunny Road," Mr. Hamilton Gibson's view of a defunct landscape, Mr. Horatio Walker's "A Quiet Day in a Fine Garden," Mr. No. 385, with its Dutch girls, and the drawings by Mr. Kruseman Van Elton, Mr. Drake and Mr. Harry Penn are all serious and worthy works.

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Mr. Carlo has two or three of his strongly characterized figures, well drawn, and Miss Clara McHenry in "The Mother," No. 335, has a serious work of much strength and sincerity of purpose, which is marked by a somewhat confused and muddy handling.

It is only necessary further to name a few of the drawings that might perhaps justly enough claim more space. There are several pictures which are really of a high order of merit. Mr. Frank Fowler has a very good drawing of two children, a boy and a girl, in a room. Mr. F. H. Freeman has a very good drawing of two children, a boy and a girl, in a room.

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